

DEMOCRATIC BANNER.

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BY A. J. PICKENS.

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HOME AND FRIENDS.

BY CHARLES SWAIN.

Oh, there's a power to make each hour
As sweet as heaven designed it,
Nor need we roam to bring it home,
Though few there be who find it!
We seek too high for things close by,
And lose what nature found us;
For life hath here no charms so dear,
As home and friends around us!

We oft destroy the present joy,
For future hopes—and praise them;
While flowers as sweet bloom at our feet,
If we'd but stoop to raise them;
For things afar still sweetest are,
When youth's bright spell hath bound us;
But soon we're taught that earth hath naught
Like home and friends around us!

The friends that speed in time of need,
When hope's last reed is shaken,
To show us still, that come what will,
We are not quite forsaken.
Though all were night, if but the light
From friendship's altar crowned us,
'Twould prove the bliss of earth was this—
Of home and friends around us!

[From the New York Tribune, 8th Inst.]
Late News from California.

We are indebted to GREGORY & Co.'s California Express, for full files of late San Francisco and Sacramento papers, received by the Georgia. We take from them the following extracts:

From the Mines.—A few days ago, we fell in with a gentleman of excellent judgment, who had just returned from the head waters of the North Fork—where he, in company with five others, passed the last winter. This part were so hemmed in with snow that they could not well leave, notwithstanding the ravines and gulches were bare, and could be worked. For four weeks they lived almost entirely on venison, after their winter's provisions were exhausted. This gentleman has been nearly one year in the mines, and always one of the foremost in pushing toward the outskirts. He is well acquainted with the mining for miles around the locality where he wintered, and from him we learned some facts that may be interesting. The point where he wintered, is about 100 miles from this place—30 miles above Cold Spring, on North Fork.

He states that all along the river, and for an unknown distance back from the river, the entire space between Cold Spring and the point where he wintered, is auriferous. The hills and valleys have the same appearance as the country around Auburn and the Pilot Hill Dry Diggings. The whole country seems as if it had been thrown from its original state by eruptions, and all tumbled into monstrous heaps, winding round among which are innumerable ravines and small runs, in which gold is almost always found.

The North Fork, in this region, is quite small, and the gold in it coarse and lumpy, like the gold obtained in dry diggings.

In trying to give an idea of the extent of the auriferous country bordering on North Fork, our informant said that 20,000 men could all find room to dig for years, he believed, with exhausting this single portion of the mines. The country he describes can best be worked in the rainy season, when water is abundant. The North Fork and tributaries, however, have been little frequented so high up, and the Summer diggings must be rich. This country is very difficult of access—goods can only be sent to it on pack animals, and it has consequently been little frequented. When our informant left, which was sometime last week, the snow had not all disappeared from that region, and he thinks the water will remain so high as to prevent digging near the bed of the river until the middle of July. [Sacramento Transcript.]

The Eastern Slope of the Sierra Nevada.—The fact that gold is found all along the western borders of this chain of mountains, is strong evidence that the eastern side possesses the same rich deposits. We

DEMOCRATIC BANNER.

"UNITED WE STAND—DIVIDED WE FALL."

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LOUISIANA, PIKE COUNTY, MISSOURI, MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1850.

[NO. 12.]

have often made inquiries of people who came over the plains, concerning this region, but have been unable to gain any information that would prove beyond a doubt existence of gold. These mountains lie across the emigrant's way, but by the time their overland trains reach them, their provisions are nearly exhausted, their teams worn down, and the most curious and observing have not the means or time to spare, to pursue any scientific investigations. All we have been able to learn, is, that the country on the other side is similar to that on this. The rising of the mountains is gradual, but uneven and irregular. The geological appearance of the earth resembles the gold region of California; the quartz rock abounds, and deep and winding ravines intervene between the uneven heights. Two of the principal streams beyond the mountains are the Truckee River and Carson's creek. They are said to be as large as the American Fork, and run east till they lose themselves in the great desert. Reports have been circulated in this country that the Mormons have found gold in streams that empty into the Truckee River, but we are not aware of their being well founded. [Sacramento Transcript.]

Latest from Gold Lake.—By a gentleman just arrived from Marysville, we learn that authentic accounts from Gold Lake had been received at that place. They represent that the outlets of the lake yield from four to six ounces of the precious metal per day to a man. The lake itself has not yet been prospected, on account of the great depth of snow which surrounds it. [Alta California, July 1.]

Oregon Bar, North Fork, June 12, 1850.

Things in the Northern Mines.—Messrs. Editors: What a change has taken place, and what change has been taken from this place since my first visit one year since. Then the digger packed his plunder either on his back or had it transported by teams, and fortunate was he if this point was reached in three days from the "Embarcadero." Now he throws his pick, shovel and blankets into a comfortable coach, and seating himself, is whirled over the plains, and rolled over the hills, (not upset) reaching this place in a few hours, indulging, (by the way) if he chooses, in a milk punch concocted by fair hands, or demolishing a quarter section of an excellent pie as a New York pastry cook could furnish. And even after your arrival you are astonished to find pork and beans nowhere, but in lieu thereof an excellent hotel, and if you arrive on Sunday the following bill of fare will be found on your plate at dinner: Soup, boiled salmon; stewed hare, vegetables, whortleberry pudding, &c. There is no longer any necessity for a miner who is doing well, perfecting himself in the culinary department, for the time lost in watching the pot which won't boil, or the flap jacks which will burn, is more valuable than the additional expense of boarding where you find everything prepared at the blowing of the horn, and no dishes to wash afterward, nor in truth any of the thousand little drawbacks which are inseparable from the office of cook.

But the labor, ah, that is just as severe as ever it was. No improvement in this branch of a miner's experience. The pick has to be swung in the same old way, and the shovel insinuated into the stony soil with as much strength as of yore. Even in this age of progress there is as yet no way discovered whereby digging is made easy. On this bar the work is exceedingly laborious. The pits are usually sunken to the depth of twenty feet before the dirt yields sufficient to repay the miner, but after this vein is reached the amounts taken out generally very great. Two sailors have washed out as high as \$800 daily, and many others have averaged \$200 for many days in succession. Of course "where the carcass is there will the eagles," &c.; consequently, the bar is crowded with adventures, but with the exception of those who were fortunate enough to obtain claims on the lower end of the bar, not much ore is taken out. The river, which has hitherto been very high, is now gradually falling, and will continue to do so until the rains again set in. The gold found on this bar is very coarse and so rusty that quicksilver cannot be used to any advantage. Within the last month four hombres have vamoosed with their "piles," two disposing of their claims, for \$1,500, and the other two for \$1,600. After the water goes down we are in hopes of following suit. Meanwhile "hope springs," &c. and that hope encourages us to wait the falling of the river, doing nothing in the meantime but throwing off immense stones from the leads we have, and making ready to go to work. [Correspondence of the Sacramento Transcript.]

GOLD IN OREGON.—It will be recollected by our readers, that, a few days since, we mentioned the existence of a report that

gold had been discovered in Oregon in considerable quantities. Since that time we have heard from various other sources information of the same character, but we scarcely dared give credence to the reports. Letters have been in town some days, from most respectable sources in Oregon, which seem to confirm these reports. We have been shown a letter received a few days since, by one of our most esteemed merchants, from a relative residing at Saint Helens, formerly Plymouth, dated the 29th of May, and after its perusal we can no longer remain incredulous, as we conceive the letter to have come from a perfectly reliable source. By permission, we make a few extracts:

St. HELENS, Wednesday, May 29, '50.
A great excitement prevails here; gold is found everywhere and parties are constantly forming for further explorations. A party of some of our most respectable merchants left Portland a few days since for the Wallah-Wallah, a tributary of the Columbia. The movement proceeded from a parcel of sand which was brought in by the Indians, which yielded 50 per cent. pure gold. And in consequence of this and many other similar reports, Flour has risen from \$18 to \$40 per barrel in Oregon City, and other articles of consumption in proportion.

Reports from Rogue's River represent gold as very abundant upon that stream. A large party, Mr. — among the number, start in a few weeks, the water permitting, for Mount St. Helena, which is well known to be a gold region. I have seen a large lot of fine silver ore from that place. The Indians represent it as very abundant. Mount St. Helena is about thirty miles due north from this place. [Alta California.]

From the Placer Times, July 17th.

Great Discoveries of Gold—Gold Lake.

We are inclined to give only an average degree of credit to stories that have reached us during the past few days of the unprecedented richness which this locality has developed. A few moments passed in Marysville on Saturday, convinced us that there is much more show of reality in this last eureka report than usually attaches to the like. In a year's experience of local excitements from the same cause, we have seen none equal to what now prevails in that town. It has visited all the inhabitants indiscriminately, lawyers, doctors and judges, traders, teamsters, mechanics and gamblers. Our readers know we are the last to justify the circulation of unfounded or exaggerated reports, but we deem it right to conceal nothing of what may prove (for aught that we can see to the contrary) one of the most astounding discoveries in the modern history of diggings. The specimens brought into Marysville are of a value from \$1,600 down. Ten ounces is reported as no unusual yield to a panful, and the first part of sixty, which started out under the guidance of one who had returned successful, were assured that they would not get less than \$500 each per day. We were told that the previous morning two hundred had left the town with a full supply of provisions and four hundred mules. Those who could not go were hiring others in their stead. The length of the journey and the quantity of provisions required, there being no stores in the region, rendered an outfit rather expensive. Mules and horses had doubled in value, and \$400 was considered no more than enough to furnish a proper start.

The distance to Gold Lake was first reported 200 miles; the best informed, however, say that it is but little more than half of that. It lies at a very considerable elevation among the mountains that divide the waters of the South Fork of Feather from those of the north branch of the Yuba. The direction from Marysville is a little north of east. The story has, of course, spread ere this, far and wide among the miners, high up on the Feather and Yuba, and the spot will be as crowded as all other good places are, ere the tardy adventurer from this distance could reach it. The region of the Gold Lake wonders is a new one, however, and lies between what are established to be diggings of unsurpassed richness. It is our belief that it is better for one who has got some initiation into the gold mysteries, (if there be any) not to be content in old "used up" localities, but to push along to the great field yet unexplored; and that, though the search be long and laborious, the big life is ultimately pretty sure for those who are patient and persevering.

The same paper of July 18th, contains additional particulars, having a tendency to add plausibility to the reports. Among other things, a man by the name of McLelland, came into Marysville on 17th, with \$7,000, the result of four days labor at Gold Lake. Whatever may be the truth of the reports, there is no doubt of one thing—the whole population of Marysville and its vicinity,

have become infected by the news, and are taking up their march thitherwards in crowds.

The Transcript speaks rather doubtfully on the subject. It says:

"The reports come, as a general thing, through teamsters and other persons whose interest it is to give as favorable accounts as possible. The statements are very conflicting."

To this we may add the opinion of a gentleman who reached this city from Marysville, direct, on Tuesday night. The excitement, he says is great; but no one could give any definite information of the locality or of its productiveness. Yet all seemed to think there was no doubt in the matter, and as many as could get away were starting or getting ready to push for the new El Dorado. Upon his way down, on board the boat, he conversed with a man who professed to have explored that region lately, although he did not claim to know where Gold Lake was. But between the north fork of the Yuba and Feather rivers, at the foot of the great chain of mountains, he reported a series of lakes of various dimensions, and "two thousand people" prospecting all about. The show was very deep—"six feet"—and but little gold. So he intimated.

The following extract from the Placer Times is the most positive information within our knowledge:

On the arrival of the Lawrence yesterday, from Marysville we received more news of the Gold Lake excitement, now prevailing in those parts. It promises to spare no one. Many who would not be understood to have yielded to it, seek, under various pretences to get away—some pleading business in other quarters of the mines; others desiring the recreation of a country jaunt. It is reported that, up to Thursday last, two thousand persons had taken up their journey; that many who were working good claims, and had made considerable progress, were deserting them for the new discovery. Mules and horses were almost impossible to be obtained. A supply from this quarter was expected daily, and most anxiously awaited. Although the truth of the report rests on the authority of the two or three who have returned from Gold Lake, yet but few are found who doubt their marvelous revelations. The first man who came into Marysville took out a party of forty as guide, on condition they paid him \$100 each if his story was verified, and offering his life as a forfeit for any deception.

This party, it is understood, came near losing their way, from the difficulty the guide found in retracing his path, after the snow had melted. Fortunately, however, they encountered another man who was on his way returning, and he showed the track. This second person has since left with a much larger party, who are to give him two hundred dollars each, and the same forfeit is provided. The spot is described as very difficult of approach, and it is feared that many will lose their way. A party of ten Kanakas are reported to have wintered at Gold Lake, subsisting chiefly on the flesh of their animals. They are said to have taken out about \$75,000 the first week. The lake is not large, and, after the wet season ceases, has no outlet; at present, however, the water runs over the basin, and finds its way into the North Fork of Feather river. At a lower stage it admits of easy drainage, and the undertaking is already projected.

Of course the most extravagant anticipations are founded on the result of this work, induced by the yield from the borders of the lake which have already been realized. The "placers" proper is very limited, and little encouragement is given as to the character of the surrounding country; indeed, it is probably entirely unexplored, as the region lies about as far up among the snows as the most adventurous have yet penetrated.

DISCOVERY OF SALT IN CALIFORNIA.—We have just been favored with the view of a specimen of salt, from a salt spring about fifteen miles west of Sonora, and near the Tuolumne river. The salt is described to us as furnishing abundance of water, which is extremely strong and pure. It is upon the side of a small hill, and at a short distance from where the water issues from the rock, is a circular basin some 200 feet in circumference and four or five feet deep, into which the salt water from the spring flows. The bottom and sides of this basin are of solid rock, forming a most desirable receptacle, from which the water can be taken when a manufactory for salt is established here. We are also informed that the land about the spring is well wooded, and we doubt not that in a short time there will be manufactured at this point sufficient salt for our own consumption at much less rates than we can now procure it for. In the small strata of rocks whence the salt spring issues, silver ore appears, and from representations and the specimens we have seen, we should not be surprised if this newly discovered mineral de-

posit should prove extremely productive. A company is on the eve of organizing for the manufacturing of salt at this spring, and working the silver mines.

HERE THEY COME!

By Mr. Ira J. Saunders, who arrived in this city last evening, direct from Council Bluffs in 55 days, we are informed that there are about 700 wagons within three weeks travel of this city, and that numerous small parties of emigrants may be expected to arrive during the coming week. The travel this season is performed mainly with horses and mules, which will reduce the time of the trip to about 60 or 65 days. Fears are entertained for those left behind, on account of the scarcity of provisions. Women and cows are reported to be on the way numerous; 24 of the former in charge of one hombre, and two or three cows with every team. Grass was rather scarce, and snow pretty deep—say from one to two hundred feet! Particulars in our next. [Sacramento Times, 29th June.]

In Cole county, where all the official influence of the Governor and State officers, was brought to bear in favor of the Benton candidate, they only received a majority of eight. Mr. Green beat John G. Miller 65. The Benton representative was elected by 13 majority. The Benton candidate for Senator fell behind his Anti-Benton competitor 31 votes.

We regret to learn that the ill-health of the proprietor of that staunch and faithful Democratic paper, the Fayette Democrat, has compelled him to discontinue its publication. He offers the materials of the office for sale "cheap for cash."

The publication of the Paris Mercury has been temporarily suspended, in order to enable the editor to "settle up." One half or the whole of the establishment is offered for sale.

A QUIETUS FOR CROSSBABIES.

By this we do not mean knocking their brains out against the bedpost, nor any thing of the sort. Nor do we mean giving them paregoric, Daffy's elixer, Dalby's carminative, black drops, or any other poison. The only requisite to quiet a squalling, squealing little baby is, that it shall possess a nose. In the midst of its screaming, press your finger gently and repeatedly across the cartilage of that useful organ, and in less than two minutes it will be asleep. [Exchange Paper.]

A GREAT COUNTRY.

The United States have a frontier line of 11,000 miles, a sea coast of 5,340 and a lake coast of 1,160. One of its rivers is twice as long as the Danube, the largest river in Europe. We have single States larger than England, and bayous and creeks that shame the Tiber and Seine. New York harbor receives the vessels, that navigate the rivers, canals and lakes to the extent of 3,000 miles—equal to the distance from America to Europe. From Maine to New Orleans is 200 miles further than from London to Constantinople, a route that crosses England, Belgium, Prussia, Germany, Austria and Turkey. Truly this is "a great country."

What kind of essence does a young man like when he pops the question! Acquiescence.

Here, you little rascal, walk up and give an account of yourself; where have you been?

After the gals, father.

Did you ever know me to do so when I was a boy?

No sir—but mother did.

A skiff containing two gentlemen and two ladies, capsized in a gale, in the middle of the Ohio river, opposite Mayville, a few days since, when one of the young ladies was caught by her brother and placed on the skiff, but the other, like a true heroine, swam to the shore. We believe the latter lady is single! [Cin. Enq.]

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a writ of execution issued from the office of the clerk of the circuit court of Pike county, Mo., bearing date the 12th day of August, 1850, in favor of Henry Pollard and against Samuel Nalley, I have levied upon and seized, all the right and title of the said Samuel Nalley in and to the following real estate, being and lying in said county of Pike, and bounded as follows, to wit: Bounded by the lands of Austin Beasley on the north, by lands of W. G. Merriweather's heirs on the south, by land of Strother J. McGinnis on the east, and by lands recently sold by said Samuel Nalley to Henry J. Pollard on the west—containing two hundred and ninety-seven acres, more or less, and will offer the same to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, before the court house door in the town of Bowling Green, in said county, on the 6th day of September next, and during the sitting of the circuit court for said county, between the hours of 9 and 5 o'clock of said day, to satisfy said execution and all cost.

M. GIVENS, sheriff.
Per Wm. G. Hawkins, D. C.
August 12th, 1850.